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Impact of fake-news on our societies

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Fake news: a definition

By fake news we should certainly mean false news, lies. It is a phenomenon that precedes the development of the Internet era and new technologies, but – nowadays – it has more relevance in the public debate.

Fake news is news **partially or totally untrue**, intentionally or unintentionally disclosed through the Web, media or digital communication technologies, and characterized by **apparent plausibility**.



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Fake news: a definition

- Shared **without prior verification of sources**
- Written and published to grab the reader's attention

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A new challenge for societies

Even if the phenomenon of fake news is not new, western democracies are facing new challenges: the phenomenon reflects indeed on entire communities and undermines their fundamental right to accurate information, which is necessary to exercise free and critical thinking and to affirm the rights associated with democratic citizenship.

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What are the effects on people and society in general?

- Amplification of prejudices against minorities or against a group of people
- Polarisation of societies
- Exploitation of discriminatory attitudes
- Dissemination of hate speech for electoral purposes, incitement to violence
- Disorientation produced by misinformation and by an intense flow of fake news: if we hear enough lies, we do not recognize the truth at all.

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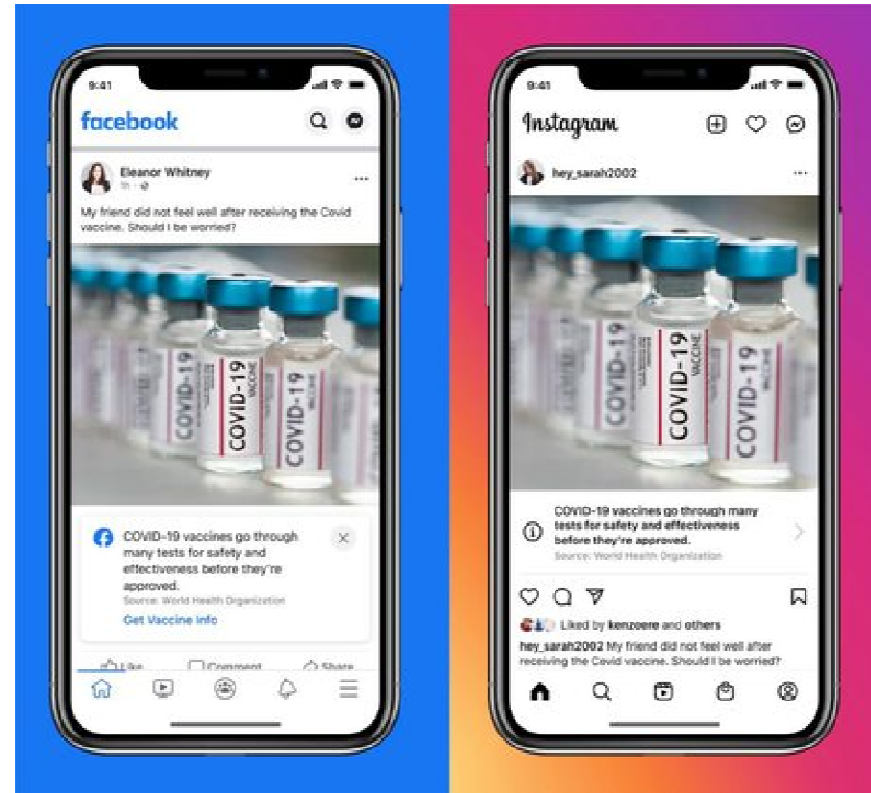
- Covid-19 and vaccinations
- Brexit
- Elections
- Migration policies





The role of social media

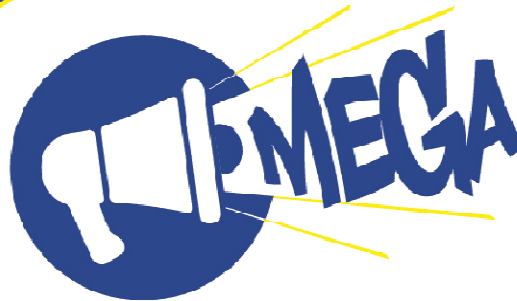
Social media platforms:
particularly fertile breeding
ground for amplifying any
message.



And what is our role?

- More fact-checking
- Always be aware





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